

ADDRESS

OF THE

DEWAN OF MYSORE

TO THE

DASARA REPRESENTATIVE ASSEMBLY

19th OCTOBER 1915.

I.—Preliminary.

GENTLEMEN,

By command of His Highness the Maharaja, it is my pleasing duty to welcome you to the thirty-second session of the Dasara Representative Assembly, and to address you, in accordance with precedent, upon the past year's administration of the State and on the more important measures which will engage the attention of His Highness' Government in the current and coming years.

2. As was done on the last two occasions, the address is presented in two parts. The first part is intended to give the salient features of the year's work and the second part, which will be taken as read, deals with less important details. The two parts together will, it is believed, give all the information that is likely to interest the public in the operations of the Government Departments during the official year 1914-15.

3. To us, as to the rest of the civilised world, the *The War*. great European war continues to be an object of supreme concern. The destruction of treasures of art, historic buildings and ships, means the loss, in the course of a few months, of the fruits of generations of skilled human labour. The distressing events that are happening and the barbarous methods of the enemy have served to emphasise the moral significance of the struggle and have won for the Allies the sympathy and respect of the entire civilised world. The end is not, perhaps, as yet in sight, but the thoroughness and determination with which the allied

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Despatch of Mysore troops.

nations are organising their resources, make it certain that their final victory cannot be far distant.

4. Since we last met, His Highness' offer of our troops for the war has been accepted and our Imperial Service Regiment left Bangalore for active service on the 13th October 1914 under the command of Col. J. Desaraj Urs, C.I.E., M.V.O. Its members, from all accounts received, have been behaving in a manner of which their countrymen may well be proud. The strength of the Depôt at Bangalore has been temporarily raised to replace casualties in the field. Government have also undertaken to train some remounts belonging to the Imperial Government.

Having regard to the magnitude of the operations, the help we can give is, after all, very little, but that little has been, and will continue to be given, without stint to the fullest measure of our limited resources.

5. The war has affected our finances and trade in various directions and a period of tension is upon us. Prices of food grains continue to rule high and machinery and materials for manufacture are difficult to procure. During the current year also, we shall probably have to forego a substantial portion of our sandalwood revenue. All this will doubtless change when the war is over, and we may hope that when progress is resumed, it will be at a pace which the interruption will only have served to accelerate.

Agricultural conditions, 1914-15.

6. The seasonal prospects were not very reassuring when we met here last Dasara. The *mungar* rains of April and May 1914 had been scanty and ill-distributed, and the south-west monsoon had proved unsatisfactory. Some difficulty was felt for drinking water, fodder had become scarce, particularly in the districts of Bangalore, Kolar, Mysore and Hassan, and anxiety was felt regarding the state of the crops. But these conditions did not, fortunately, last long, and the end of the monsoon brought us ample rains which largely made up for the deficiencies in the earlier part of the year. Some of the crops, such as sugar-cane and horse-gram, gave a good yield, and there was no reduction in the acreage under dry crops generally, though the outturn was not satisfactory. Judged in the bulk, the results of the year's operations cannot be said to have been very unfavourable.

Seasonal prospects 1915-16.

7. The current monsoon began very well. The *mungar* rains were satisfactory over the greater part of the State. There was a break in the month of August and

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part of September but the heavy showers we have had within the past six weeks have served to ease the situation. Although we still want more rain, the prospects of the season, so far as present indications go, seem to be on the whole satisfactory.

2.—Administration—General.

8. Before proceeding to a description of the work of the departments, I shall refer to a few subjects of general administrative interest.

First and foremost I may be permitted to refer to the distinction of G.C.I.E. conferred by His Majesty the King-Emperor on Sir Sri Narasimharaja Wadiyar Bahadur, the Yuvaraja of Mysore. I have no doubt you will all join me in offering our respectful congratulations to the Yuvaraja on the distinction he has so worthily earned and on the important part he is taking in the administration of the State as Extraordinary Member of Council.

9. The session of the Representative Assembly last year extended over seven days, namely, from 1st to 7th October. Two hundred and ninety-two subjects were discussed, of which 149 have been finally dealt with. The number of subjects still under consideration is 143 or, including those pending from previous years, 216. *The Representative Assembly.*

10. It is the wish of His Highness the Maharaja that the elected representatives of the people in this Assembly should become more closely acquainted with the objects and plans of Government by a discussion of the State budget, and I shall be glad if you will suggest how this wish might be most conveniently given effect to.

The budget will have been passed at the beginning of the official year, but the suggestions of the members may be utilised in framing the following year's budget. If any of the suggestions be such as could be adopted without interfering with the integrity of the budget, Government may be able to give immediate effect to the same. At all events they will have an opportunity of gauging, and bringing the budget in line with, the reasonable wishes of the representatives of the people as far as possible.

*The Legislative
Council.*

11. The Legislative Council met four times and considered nine bills, including three pending from the previous year. With a view to render budget discussions more informing and useful, a preliminary meeting was held in July of this year, at which members were afforded an opportunity of obtaining information before they met for formal discussion.

12. You may remember that, at the last session of this Assembly, the members asked, among other things, for the grant, to the non-official members of the Legislative Council, of the privilege of asking supplementary questions in connection with the powers of interpellation which they now enjoy. You will be glad to learn that His Highness the Maharaja has been graciously pleased to grant the request subject to the same rules as are applicable to Legislative Councils in British India. A member, who has asked a question, may put a supplementary one for the purpose of further elucidating any matter of fact regarding which a request for information was made in his original question. Detailed rules in the matter will issue in due course.

Secretariat Changes.

13. A few changes of importance have been made in regard to the Government Secretariats. For facility of work five Secretariats with distinct functions have been constituted. The Military Secretary to His Highness the Maharaja has ceased to perform Secretariat functions in respect of the Departments under his executive control, and the State Geologist, who is now designated Director of Mines and Geology, has been afforded similar relief. The office of the Engineer-in-Chief for Railways has been separated from the Railway Secretariat. Measures are under contemplation for ensuring a greater degree of uniformity than exists at present in the methods of work followed in the different Secretariats.

3.—Finance.

*Revised Estimate
for 1914-15.*

14. Turning now to the finances of the State, the revenue for the year 1914-15, according to the revised estimates, stood at Rs. 278.14 lakhs. and the ordinary expenditure at Rs. 254.15 lakhs, showing a surplus in the ordinary account of Rs. 23.99 lakhs. Including extraordi-

nary expenditure and the capital outlay on new railway and irrigation works amounting to Rs. 86·96 lakhs, the total expenditure came to Rs. 393·11 lakhs or Rs. 114·97 lakhs in excess of the year's revenue. In the budget the net outgoings had been estimated at Rs. 73·54 lakhs. The situation was thus less favourable than what was anticipated by Rs. 41·43 lakhs. The circumstances which brought about this result were the payment of a contribution of Rs. 52 lakhs to the Imperial War Funds, and a fall in the revenue to the extent of about Rs. 6·95 lakhs, due mainly to a set back in the sandalwood revenue, counterbalanced by savings in expenditure to the extent of Rs. 17·52 lakhs.

15. The State budget for the current year was presented to the Legislative Council on the 28th June 1915, and was discussed by that body on the 27th July following. The estimates as finally approved provide for a gross revenue of Rs. 274·02 lakhs and a gross ordinary expenditure of Rs. 273·70 lakhs. The total expenditure of the year amounts to Rs. 340·05 lakhs, including special grants on account of the following large public works:—

	Lakhs.
	Rs.
Cauvery Reservoir and allied works ...	25·00
Capital outlay on State railways and steam tramways ...	26·35
Subsidised or aided railways ...	7·00
Bangalore electric tramways ...	6·00
Cauvery Power Scheme—IV Installation ...	2·00
Total ...	66·35

16. The year's budget shows practically an equilibrium between receipts and ordinary expenditure. This is due to an anticipated decline of Rs. 15 lakhs in the sandalwood revenue, as a result of the war conditions, and to the continuance of the provision made for certain special items of expenditure for the economic and social improvement of the people, amounting to roughly Rs. 11 lakhs. The present circumstances are of an unusual character and cannot obviously last long or recur with frequency, and it is not considered prudent to interrupt the continued operation of measures for the welfare of the people. Taking the experience of the past four years, during which the ordinary account showed a favourable balance amounting (in round figures) to rupees 19, 52, 40, and 24 lakhs, respectively, it is not too sanguine to expect a surplus of at least 20 lakhs in normal years in future.

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17. During the past four years, Government have spent nearly a crore and a half rupees on large productive public works, *viz.*, railways, the Cauvery Reservoir and additions to the hydro-electric works known as the Cauvery Power Scheme. These works will eventually yield a substantial return on the outlay incurred and will prove assets of great permanent value to the State. It is a matter for satisfaction that we have been able to carry out, from accumulated balances and current savings, works of this magnitude and character which, in other countries, would ordinarily be constructed from borrowed funds.

18. But our present method of financing has its limitations. The Government balance which was roughly Rs. 120 lakhs at the end of June last, according to the statement of assets and liabilities hereto appended, will, it is expected, be reduced to about Rs. 53 lakhs by the end of the official year. As this balance does not admit of further reduction, we have to consider whether the construction of new works of a productive character should be deferred till sufficient funds accumulate, or whether recourse should be had to borrowing.

19. Our policy will always be to maintain an annual surplus of, say, Rs. 10 to 20 lakhs, and, so far as we can see at present, it is unlikely that we shall ever have to borrow for current expenses.

If we borrow at all, it will be to create property, to build up assets which will bring dividends, and increase the non-tax revenues of the State. Productive works of this kind, chiefly railways and irrigation works, are constructed exclusively out of loan funds in British India. We have to consider if it will not be expedient in this State also to employ loan funds more largely than we have done in recent years for the execution of such works. To construct the works from loan funds would be quite in accordance with approved principles of public finance and the practice of civilised countries. If financed solely from current savings, works of this class cannot be carried out rapidly. Besides, it is unfair to the present generation that they should be made to pay for assets the benefits of which will accrue, even in a larger measure, to their successors.

20. Up to the end of last year Government have invested on productive railway, irrigation and other works not less than Rs. 504 lakhs. Towards this outlay, loan funds provided Rs. 200 lakhs; that is, Rs. 180 lakhs for railway construction and Rs. 20 lakhs for the Cauvery

Power Scheme. For the repayment, sinking funds have been created from current revenues and the balances to the credit of these funds on 1st July 1915, stood at about Rs. 90 lakhs and Rs. 12 lakhs respectively. Government have thus got, in their railway, irrigation and power supply works, unencumbered assets worth Rs. 406 lakhs created out of current revenues. Of this amount, assets worth Rs. 150 lakhs have been built up, as already stated, within the past three or four years.

21. If we should decide to borrow, as we well may in view of the considerations above set forth, we may either raise a loan from the public or draw upon the deposits with Government, which at present amount to over Rs. 2 crores. The latter course will mean that instead of investing the deposits in foreign banks, or in Government of India securities, we will be utilising a safe portion of them on productive works within the country itself, to the great advantage of both the people and Government.

22. But the question is not free from difficulties, not the least of which is the sinister association attached to borrowing in the popular mind. His 'Highness' Government are giving careful consideration to the matter, and you may rely upon it that the decision taken will be in conformity with the permanent interests of the State and the best informed opinion on the subject.

23. The gazetted staff of the Account Department *Account Department*, was strengthened by the addition of two officers for the growing work in the Public Works and Railway Branches. The appointment of a Commercial Auditor was sanctioned for the audit of commercial concerns in which Government are interested and also of Government concerns in which accounts are kept on a commercial basis.

24. In spite of the war, the Bank of Mysore had a *The Mysore Bank*, satisfactory year. The deposits of the public with the Bank rose from about Rs. 6,90,000 on the 1st July 1914, to over Rs. 20,32,000 on the 1st July 1915. The total transactions which amounted to Rs. 26 lakhs on 1st July 1914, stood at over Rs. 41 lakhs on 1st July 1915, and a net profit of Rs. 1,10,000 was realised during the year.

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4.—Revenue Department.

25. During last year's session of this Assembly, the defective character of the law relating to the rights and responsibilities of holders of inam villages and their tenants was brought to the notice of Government. Legislation has been undertaken authorising the introduction of survey and settlement into inam villages, if not less than three-fourths of the co-sharers agree to the measure. But as this will only partially solve the difficulties pointed out, Government have appointed a committee of officers and non-official gentlemen to consider the whole question and their recommendations will, it is hoped, enable Government to settle this vexed question in a satisfactory manner.

In December 1914, Government sanctioned a scheme for the creation of large landed estates; and details of blocks of lands available for the purpose in each district have been published for general information.

Survey and Settlement.

26. Revision settlement was introduced in the Tirthahalli Taluk of the Shimoga District. The average dry rate was unaffected by the revision, but the wet rate was increased by 12 per cent, and the garden rate was reduced by 8 per cent. The net result for the entire tract was an increase of 4.42 per cent. over the revenue collected in 1909-10. Proposals for the revision settlement of the Maddagiri and Belur Taluks are under consideration.

Excise.

27. The Excise revenue continues to increase. The gross receipts during 1914-15 amounted to Rs. 58,33,170 against Rs. 55,23,999 in 1913-14, giving an increase of more than 3 lakhs over the previous year's figure, which itself constituted a record at the time. The consumption of arrack, foreign liquor and ganja has declined during the year, and that of toddy and opium shows only an insignificant increase. Country beer is the only article in the consumption of which there has been some increase.

28. In connection with the expansion of the Excise revenue, some unfavourable criticism has been levelled against the policy of Government. But two important circumstances have to be borne in mind in this connection. The first is that the increased revenue has not been accompanied by a proportionate increase in consumption. The revenue has increased since 1911-12

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by 28 per cent; while the incidence of consumption of arrack per head of population, which stood at 3·5 drams in 1911-12, has actually gone down to 3·3 drams in 1914-15. Again, Government have steadily pursued measures calculated to check consumption as far as possible. The duty on arrack has been raised from Rs. 4-12-0 to Rs. 5-4-0 per gallon at which it stands at present, and its strength has been reduced from 20° to 25° u.p. A further reduction in strength is under consideration. The tree-tax has been raised to Rs. 2 in the case of date trees, and to Rs. 3 in the case of cocoanut trees. Ganja now pays a duty of Rs. 12-8-0 per seer. During the last ten years about 900 shops have been closed and a commencement has been made in restricting the hours of sale in the shops.

29. One outstanding feature of the working of the *Forest Department.* Forest Department during the year was the large reduction in the revenue from sandalwood owing to the dislocation of the European market. The quantity offered for sale was reduced to 1,314 tons, of which less than a third was sold for Rs. 3,42,258 leaving about 946½ tons unsold. The total revenue of the department under all heads was Rs. 22,22,320 as against Rs. 32,71,336 in the previous year, and the expenditure was Rs. 9,60,449.

Some activity was displayed in the economic exploitation of our forest resources during the year. A large quantity of sleepers required for the State railways now under construction was prepared by the department. The officers placed on special duty for taking stock of the available raw material for the manufacture of paper pulp and matches have completed their investigations. The possibilities of supplying charcoal on a large scale for iron smelting from the Shimoga and Kadur forests were examined, and experiments were conducted to ascertain the comparative results of preparing charcoal by the Brisbane retort and the methods now in vogue.

5.—Protection.

30. The abolition of the Munsiff's Court at Yedahalli (now Narasimharajapura) had led to some inconvenience. *Judicial Department.*

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ence and there were persistent representations for its revival. Government have therefore sanctioned the re-establishment of the Court with effect from the 1st July 1915. An additional Munsiff has been posted to Tumkur since 24th May 1915. Sanction has been given to the formation of Bench Magistrates' Courts at Tumkur, Chikmagalur, Hassan and Shimoga. The scale of pay of the establishments of Civil Courts has been revised and the prospects of the subordinates have been improved, at an additional annual expenditure of over Rs. 23,000.

Police Department.

31. The sanctioned strength of the permanent force on the 30th June 1915 was 865 officers and 5,177 men. There was an increase in the less important class of offences, but the state of crime during the year was mostly normal. The Police Training School was re-organised during the year and a wholetime Principal and an additional Inspector were appointed. Provision has been made for a shooting range and other essential equipment.

Military.

32. The pay and status of the Infantry officers and men have been improved by the scheme for revision sanctioned by Government in August 1914.

*Medical and Public
Health Departments.*

33. The Maternity at Robertsonpet referred to in some of the previous Addresses was opened on 7th October 1914. The Female Dispensary at Champion Reefs was at first absorbed in the new institution but as its abolition was represented to be attended with inconvenience, the dispensary was re-opened on 4th March 1915. In order to meet the difficulty hitherto experienced in obtaining qualified candidates for the subordinate women medical service, more liberal stipends and salaries have been sanctioned. The school for the training of Sanitary Inspectors has been re-opened and will be maintained for a period of three years.

6.—Progress, Moral and Material.

34. I now propose to deal with the activities of the State under Education, Agriculture, Industries and Commerce and Co-operation.

Education.

Primary Education.

35. Under the new scheme for opening more village elementary schools with the aid of the people, by offering

a Government contribution of half the cost of each school, 1,100 grant-in-aid schools have been started, the liability incurred by Government being an annual maximum recurring charge of Rs. 84,000. An additional provision of Rs. 84,000 has been made in this year's budget for opening 1,000 more aided schools. One hundred and thirty new Government schools have been sanctioned at a recurring cost of Rs. 22,878 and also improvements to existing schools at a cost of Rs. 52,787. The scale of pay of village schoolmasters was revised at a cost of Rs. 84,000. With a view to encourage the study of English in rural areas, the rate of contribution, payable by the villagers concerned, for village English schools was reduced. One hundred adult night schools were sanctioned, though many of them could not be opened before the close of the year. A sum of 1½ lakhs of rupees was allotted for new village school buildings. The experiment of making itinerant teachers go round small villages situated close together to impart elementary instruction at intervals, is being tried in the taluks of Bangalore, Mysore and Tumkur.

36. The scheme for the introduction of compulsory *Compulsory Education.* education in selected centres has had a modest start. Out of 16,000 children of the "compulsory" age in the areas in question, 10,800 were attending school and facilities have been afforded for the education of about 1,200 more. It has been decided to extend the scheme to 12 new centres.

37. Sanction has been accorded to the establishment of three Kannada High or Upper Secondary schools for boys, at Dodballapur, Hole-Narsipur and Tirthahalli, and two for girls at Tumkur and Bangalore. *Secondary and Practical Education.*

A scheme has been sanctioned with the object of making vocational courses part of the secondary school curriculum, so as to give a more practical direction to education imparted in towns and villages. Forty centres have been selected and work has been started in a few schools. The department hopes to make substantial progress in the current year.

38. There was an increase in the number of candidates that graduated both from the Central College and the Maharaja's College, but the number is inadequate for the requirements of the State. *Collegiate Education.*

39. Female education is also making fair progress. *Female Education.* The year's list of successful candidates for the public examinations included the names of two ladies who took the

B.A. degree. The improvements in the Maharani's College and other institutions for the education of girls referred to in the last year's address have been carried out. A special provision of Rs. 7,000 has been made for the grant of scholarships and school-books to deserving girls in all the taluk and district schools.

Technical Education.

40. A scheme for opening industrial schools at all the district head-quarter towns and for improving existing ones is under the consideration of Government. The Mechanical Engineering School at Bangalore and the Chamarajendra Technical Institute at Mysore have been doing useful work. A qualified Superintendent from England has just been appointed to take charge of the latter school.

Commercial Education.

41. Classes for the advanced or higher courses have been opened in the Bangalore Commercial School. A vernacular section has been organized in which instruction is given in the indigenous system of accounts, elements of banking, commercial geography, etc., through the medium of Kannada.

Normal Training.

42. The improved arrangements for the normal training of teachers explained in the last year's address were given effect to. The Normal Schools now working provide for the training of 500 teachers in all. The vacation classes held during last summer were attended by 120 teachers.

43. Owing to the large increase in the number of schools, the Inspectorate has been strengthened by the addition of 12 officers. An additional European Assistant Inspectress has been appointed for girls' schools. A scheme for the grant of foreign scholarships was sanctioned during the year. Eleven scholarships were awarded for the study of various technical subjects, such as paper manufacture, banking, systems of education, organic chemistry, mechanical engineering and actuarial science.

44. There has been an increase of expenditure on education of over three lakhs of rupees during the past three years. The total number of public and private institutions during these years has increased from 4,568 to 6,134 and their strength from 156,440 to 217,717. Of the total number of pupils in 1914-15, 179,866 were boys and 37,846 were girls. The corresponding figures in 1912-13 were 129,000 and 27,431, respectively. The percentage of male scholars to male population of school-going age was

29.8 in 1912-13. It rose to 35.7 in 1913-14 and to 41.6 in 1914-15. The percentage of female scholars to female population of school-going age which stood at 6.4 in 1912-13 rose to 7.9 in 1913-14 and to 8.9 in 1914-15. The percentages of the total number of pupils under instruction to the total population of school-going age during the three years 1912-13, 1913-14 and 1914-15 were, respectively, 18.0, 21.19 and 25.4.

The progress indicated by these figures is not confined to the lower grades of education only. The number of pupils receiving collegiate education during the three years in question rose from 619 to 930 and of those receiving secondary education from 41,481 to 46,855. As regards distribution of schools, while on an average there was, in the year 1913-14, one public school for every 10 square miles, the area was reduced to 7 square miles, and including both public and private schools, to 5 square miles in 1914-15.

45. One of the most hopeful features in the situation is that the people are fully alive to the advantages of education and are evincing keen interest by coming forward with liberal contributions for maintaining teachers and constructing school houses.

46. His Highness' Government fully recognise that the educational system will be seriously defective without a local University, and necessary steps are being taken to prepare a working scheme. Government hope to be able to place the scheme before the public before very long.

The proposed Mysore University.

Department of Agriculture.

47. The experimental and scientific work done by the department included further investigations into sandal spike and green bug on coffee. Implements were sold during the year of the value of Rs. 16,626 against Rs. 12,022 in the previous year. A large number of requisitions could not be complied with owing to the delay in the arrival of ploughs from abroad, and the question of making arrangements for their manufacture in the local P. W. Workshop is under consideration.

Department of Industries and Commerce.

48. The work of the department was somewhat hampered owing to the difficulty of getting machinery and dyes from abroad.

At the beginning of the year, 26 pumping and other plants were at work and 13 plants under erection. Thirty-two installations have been taken in hand. The

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Director has stated in his annual report that during the last 2½ years since this work was started, 71 installations have come into existence costing about 4½ lakhs of rupees and yielding probably a lakh of rupees a year as direct profit to their owners, and that, though, having regard to the area of the State and its population, the results may not be considered very remarkable, they afford evidence of some enterprise and of an increasing eagerness on the part of the people to adopt labour-saving appliances. Ten loans amounting to Rs. 43,750, and 16 hire purchases amounting to Rs. 41,480, were sanctioned, and a total sum of Rs. 13,281 was recovered on account of repayments.

A local syndicate at Tirthahalli has undertaken to construct a tile factory and the buildings and plant are in course of erection. Companies have also been formed at Channapatna and Tumkur for starting tile factories.

As the outbreak of the war had greatly reduced the demand for sandalwood, investigations were made into the possibilities of manufacturing oil on a profitable scale within the State. The result of the enquiries made in England having been satisfactory, it is intended to open a small experimental factory at a cost of about one lakh of rupees for sandalwood oil distillation.

Co-operative Societies.

49. The co-operative movement in the State showed steady and continuous progress. During the year the number of societies rose from 530 to 725, the membership from 40,479 to 53,267, the working capital from Rs. 21,47,340 to Rs. 30,85,747, and the reserve fund from Rs. 56,238 to Rs. 96,669. The net profit earned is calculated at Rs. 1,61,521 and the saving in interest at Rs. 3,00,000. In the *malnad* also, there was a satisfactory increase in the number of societies, namely, from 50 to 90. The staff of the department has been considerably strengthened and it has therefore been possible to devote greater attention to the consolidation of the work of the societies.

One general Co-operative Conference, opened by the Yuvaraja of Mysore, and seventeen District and Taluk Conferences, were held during the year. It is difficult to over-estimate their value as an agent for educating the public in co-operative matters. The present year's State Conference which, as you are aware, held its sittings in this City between the 10th and 13th of this

month, was graciously opened, as on former occasions, by the Yuvaraja, and was presided over by the Hon'ble Mr. Lallubhai Sainaldas Mehta of Bombay.

Economic Conference.

50. I explained to you at some length last year the objects of the Conference and the need for expenditure in preparing the people for economic progress. The cost of the Conference now amounts to nearly two lakhs of rupees a year. Though the Committees were not able to complete many schemes of a constructive character during the year, steady progress has been made in the investigation of a large number of subjects of economic interest and in the collection of useful information. The Conference held its annual session between the 21st and 26th June last and the proceedings of that assembly have been already published.

During the year, the Standing Committee met twice and the three Central Committees of Education, Agriculture, and Industries and Commerce, ten, eleven and nine times, respectively. Since the last session of the Conference, the Standing Committee and all the Central Committees are having monthly meetings on the same day. The enlarged Standing Committee, comprising all the three Committees, meets for about an hour with a view to take stock of progress and to ensure greater harmony and co-operation between all workers and all branches of the organization. At the Standing Committee meetings, the Chairmen of Committees explain the progress made on the subjects included in the programme and the plans of the Committees as regards work in the succeeding months.

51. The District Economic Superintendents, three of whom were appointed from non-officials, have proved themselves of great help to the Deputy Commissioners in work connected with economic improvement. Once in two months they meet the heads of departments concerned and the Secretaries of the Conference and the Committees, and in this way form a useful link between the work of the central bodies on the one hand and that of the local District and Taluk Progress Committees on the other.

52. The rules regarding the constitution and working of the Taluk and Town Progress Committees were revised during the year. The new rules are expected to make the work of these bodies more efficient. In accordance with the resolutions of the Conference, the

Mysore Economic Journal was started in January 1915, for spreading useful information on economic subjects.

Education Committee.

53. The most important subjects considered during the year were the providing of further facilities for the education of the masses, the establishment of rural libraries, the training of teachers, the introduction of physical education and the employment of itinerant teachers for imparting education in villages too small to have schools of their own. A system of lectures for the education of adults was instituted and four travelling lecturers have been appointed. The Committee have organized Public Libraries in the cities of Bangalore and Mysore. A Conference was held under the auspices of the Committee to discuss the best methods of improving the Kannada language and literature. It was presided over by Rajamantrapravina Mr. H. V. Nanjundayya, c.i.e., and was attended also by delegates from the Madras and Bombay Presidencies.

Agricultural Committee.

54. The improvement of the sericultural industry engaged much of the attention of this Committee. In accordance with a scheme for dairy farming prepared by the Committee, a private dairy has been established at Bangalore for which a loan of Rs. 10,000 has been granted by Government. The Committee issued 20 English and 20 Kannada publications on various subjects. The Mysore Silk Association carried on experiments in throwing and preparing silk for the loom and is training boys and girls in these processes.

Industries and Commerce Committee.

55. Investigations were made in regard to the manufacture of matches, pencils, paper and soap and the establishment of a cotton mill.

With the object of ascertaining the subsidiary occupations which people in the State usually follow, and the scope which exists for their improvement, an officer was deputed for a survey of the various kinds of home industries and occupations in the cities of Bangalore and Mysore. His report has just been published.

Besides the establishment and promotion of industries, the Committee have investigated other questions intimately connected with the economic welfare of the people, such as the inauguration of a scheme of Life Insurance managed by the State and the opening of Village Savings Banks. They have also prepared schemes for offering facilities to merchants to travel abroad and for the appointment of commercial correspondents for the development of trade.

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7.—Technical Departments.

Public Works.

56. The total expenditure on Public Works from all sources, including Local Funds, amounted to about Rs. 70½ lakhs against Rs. 57½ lakhs in the preceding year. Of this amount, Rs. 39 lakhs were spent on Irrigation works and Rs. 31½ lakhs on Civil Works and Military Buildings.

57. Satisfactory progress has been made in the *Storage Works*, construction of the Cauvery Reservoir at Kannambadi. The dam has risen to a height of 51·50 feet in the river bed and 55 to 74 feet at the flanks. With the aid of scouring sluices fixed in the dam, the discharge in the river, except during high floods, can be regulated according to requirements. The storage thus far secured will enable us not only to guarantee water to the existing power supply to the Kolar Gold Mines up to 9,321 H.P., but to provide, according to the new agreement with the Mining Companies, additional power to the extent of 5,000 H.P. The outlay on the construction of the dam during the year was Rs. 26,92,000, bringing the total expenditure up to the end of June 1915 to Rs. 71,45,000. A scheme for the generation of electric power, by utilising the head available in the reservoir, is under consideration.

Fair progress has also been made with the channel works undertaken for resettling the raiyats drowned out by the reservoir. Water was supplied for the irrigation of about 2,500 acres of new land under the Hemagiri and Mandagere channels as also for some distance down the Chamaraj South Bank Channel and the two low level canals. The expenditure on these channel works amounted to Rs. 5,39,000. Proposals for the extension of sugar-cane cultivation under existing channels are being matured.

The award of the Arbitration Committee appointed for settling the differences between the Government of Madras and this Government regarding the storage of the Cauvery waters is still under the consideration of the Government of India.

58. The results of the block system of irrigation, *Irrigation Improvements*, introduced in connection with the Marikanve reservoir have so far proved encouraging. The area irrigated and the demand for irrigable land and canal water have been steadily increasing. There is also a noticeable improve-

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ment in the health of the canal villages. To facilitate the smooth working of the system, the rules have been revised in the light of recent experience. The canal area has begun to attract settlers from outside.

Minor Tanks.

59. The question of the restoration and proper maintenance of minor tanks, on which the prosperity of the ryots so largely depends, was fully discussed at the last session of this Assembly. As a result, the old rules were revised, offering more liberal concessions than before, and additional *Maramat* establishment was sanctioned. Government trust that, with these facilities, the ryots will take more interest in the restoration of their tanks than they have evinced hitherto and enable the Deputy Commissioners to show greater progress in future.

Buildings.

60. The principal civil buildings under construction during the year were additions to the New Palace, improvements at the north and south gates of the Fort, the General Hospital and the Chamarajendra Technical Institute at Mysore; the extension of the Public Offices and the Public Works Workshop and Stores at Bangalore, and new Taluk Cutcheries at Sidlaghatta and Honnali. The construction of a travellers' bungalow and of quarters for Indian guests and the Representative Assembly members at Mysore, and of a large block for the Mechanical Engineering School at Bangalore and a new Taluk Cutcherry at Chickmagalur, were some of the other important works started during the year.

Miscellaneous public improvements.

61. The principal items of work under this head consisted of the construction of roads and drains in the Extensions, and improvements to the Cabbon Park, in the Bangalore City, the roofing in of the water service reservoir on the Kolar Gold Fields, the installation of a Jewell-Filter for improving the water supply of the Mysore City, the new water supply installations for the towns of Nanjangud and Davangere and certain improvements in connection with the Ghati Subramanyaswami temple in the Dodballapur Taluk.

Time scale for Engineer officers.

62. To improve the prospects of Engineer officers, a new time scale of pay has been introduced with effect from 1st July of this year, in supersession of the one sanctioned in 1909. The recruitment to the Sub-Assistant Engineer class will be confined to graduates of distinction. The number of Executive Engineers has been increased from 10 to 14 on account of the increase of divisional charges.

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Electrical Department.

63. The Fourth Installation works, which were undertaken to generate additional power to be supplied to the Mining Companies, were completed during the year and the machinery came into operation even before the date stipulated for the additional supply.

The capital outlay on the Cauvery Power Scheme during the year amounted to Rs. 28,000, and the total outlay to the end of June 1915 aggregated Rs. 84,88,053 exclusive of the expenditure of Rs. 18,72,350 incurred on the Fourth Installation works. The gross earnings during the year from the Cauvery Power Scheme amounted to Rs. 18,72,350 against Rs. 17,03,888 during the previous year, showing an increase of Rs. 1,68,462 which was due to an increase in the power supply to the mines. The working expenses amounted to Rs. 7,05,889 including a sum of Rs. 2,94,887 set apart for depreciation, and Rs. 37,762 spent in connection with the channels conservancy operations. The net profit, after deducting the interest charges of Rs. 2,78,598 at 4 per cent on the capital outlay of Rs. 84,88,053, was Rs. 8,73,857, which represents a return of 10.29 per cent on the total capital expenditure.

The rates for the supply of electric power to small consumers were further reduced in Bangalore and Mysore as a temporary measure for encouraging the growth of minor industries.

64. Government regret that the project for constructing an Electric Tramway Service in Bangalore has, after many vicissitudes, been again held in abeyance owing to the difficulty of getting the required materials at reasonable rates on account of the war. *Bangalore Tramways.*

Railway Department.

65. The year's results of the working of the State lines by the Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway Company show gross earnings amounting to Rs. 36,09,078 which is about Rs. 3 lakhs less than in the previous year. The decrease is mainly due to smaller movements of food grains, raw cotton and oil seeds and to a general falling off under coaching, due to war conditions. The expenses amounted to Rs. 20,36,742 or about Rs. 2 lakhs less than in 1913-14 and the net earnings to Rs. 14,98,355. The percentage of return on the total capital outlay of Rs. 2,58,03,840 works out to 5.81. After deducting from the net earnings the interest on the ster- *State lines worked by the Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway Company.*

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ling loan of £1,200,000, the actual realisation from these lines amounted to Rs. 7,78,561, and this gives a net return of 3 per cent on the outlay. A portion of this return is, however, being spent annually on the Railway itself, that is, on improvements to the open lines worked by the Company.

*Lines constructed and
worked by State
Agency*

66. Fair progress was made on the Mysore-Arsikere Railway which, it is expected, will be opened for traffic about the close of the year 1915-16. The Kolar-Srinivasapur section of the Kolar-Chickballapur loop is likely to be ready for traffic about December next. Work on the Lakvalli-Narasimharajapura Tramway is in progress, and the line will be placed on a proper working basis during the current official year.

Surveys for the feeder railways in the Shimoga District were begun during the year. The projects for the Hassan-Chickmagalur, Chickmagalur-Kadur, and Chickjajur-Chitaldrug lines are still under consideration.

67. The Kolar District Board Railway, between Bowringpet and Kolar, the Yelahanka-Devanhalli section of the Bangalore-Chickballapur Light Railway and the Tarikere-Lakvalli section of the Tarikere-Narasimharajapura Tramway were working at the close of the year. The section between Devanhalli and Chickballapur of the Bangalore-Chickballapur Light Railway, has also since been opened for traffic.

New Railways.

68. Among other lines under investigation by His Highness' Government may be mentioned the Bangalore-Hosur connection to link up with the Morappur-Hosur line and the Mysore-Coorg connection for which preliminary surveys have been sanctioned.

*Nanjangud-Erode
Link.*

69. For a satisfactory development of the trade and commerce of the State, two main arterial connections are of vital importance. The metre gauge system in the State now terminates at Nanjangud and unless it is continued and connected with the same system in south India at a point near Erode, the Mysore railway system will remain incomplete. This question, which is of over thirty years' standing, is again under correspondence with the Government of India.

*Connection to the West
Coast.*

A railway line is also urgently needed to connect the State railway system with a suitable port on the West Coast. A project for a line from Arsikere to Mangalore, via Hassan, has long been under consideration and His Highness' Government were at one time very

keen about it. But fuller enquiries have damped our enthusiasm and we have had to reconsider our attitude.

In the first place, the port of Mangalore is not open to shipping for at least three months in the year and what the permanent interests of the State require is a port which would be open throughout the year. In the second place, the original project was for a narrow gauge line and, as our trunk lines are all on the metre gauge, its construction would have involved a break of gauge. A metre gauge connection to the west coast down the Manjarabad ghat would cost the State over a crore of rupees and, in view of the altered conditions due to the war, we cannot afford this outlay. The narrow gauge line would not have answered the wants of our State because, at the Mysore end, there would have been a break of gauge and, at the west coast end, an unsatisfactory port. I have no doubt any one who thoroughly examines the conditions and resources of the country will uphold the soundness of the final decision arrived at by the Durbar.

Investigations are on foot for an alternative line ending in a more satisfactory port. We have been in search of a connection to the west coast for over 30 years, and even now our ability to construct one will depend, in a large measure, on the state of our resources in the near future.

70. I cannot conclude this portion of the address without referring to the services rendered by Mr. E. A. S. Bell, late Engineer-in-Chief and Secretary for Railways, to His Highness' Government. Mr. Bell had to organise and train a new staff and his high professional ability was of great advantage to the State in the economical construction of the new lines. His services were recalled in June last but we are grateful to the Government of India for lending us the services of another high officer in his place.

Department of Mines and Geology.

71. The number of leases and licenses current during the year was 142 as against 184 in 1913-14. The output of gold from the Kolar Mines amounted to 568,847 ozs. of an approximate value of Rs. 327 lakhs, showing an increase in output of 9,015 ozs. valued at Rs. 3,22,785 over the results of the previous year. The royalty expected for the year is Rs. 18,95,740 against Rs. 18,95,018 in 1913-14.

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With a view to the better utilisation of the mineral resources of the State, the Department of Geology was re-organised in February last. This department was started in 1894 with a definite programme for carrying out a complete geological survey of the State, publishing geological maps and bulletins, and training young men as geologists and mining engineers. This programme was tentative and after a careful consideration, a revised programme has now been sanctioned, with a view to ensure greater attention by the department to the investigation of questions having a direct economic interest. The production and manufacture of special metals, such as pig-iron and steel, ferro-manganese, ferro-chrome, etc., and the question of iron smelting, are some of the more important matters on which the department will concentrate attention in the near future.

To help the public to take a practical interest in the development of mineral resources, the department will shortly publish a brief bulletin, in English and Kannada, giving an account of the mineral resources and metallurgical possibilities of the State. Steps have also been taken to train a few young men as qualified geologists and mining engineers to meet the needs of the department as well as of private capitalists interested in mining.

8—Miscellaneous Departments.

Muzrai Department.

72. The report of the Muzrai Committee referred to in last year's Address is still engaging the consideration of Government. Rules have been issued under Sections 13, 15 and 35 of the Muzrai Regulation, dealing with the maintenance of accounts in religious and charitable institutions, the conduct of business by Dharmadarsis and other cognate matters.

Government Press.

73. There was an increase in the outturn of work during the year both in the Central Press at Bangalore and the Branch Press at Mysore. The expenditure was Rs. 1,12,096 and Rs. 6,540 respectively against Rs. 1,05,484 and Rs. 6,048 in the previous year. The number of books and periodicals registered during the year was 124 as against 117 in the previous year. Copyright was taken for 50 new books.

74. As stated in my Address last year, a scheme of work has been laid down for the department for the next three years, and additional establishment has been temporarily sanctioned in order that the programme may be carried out. The revision of the *Mysore Gazetteer*, which has been undertaken by this department, has made fair progress. *Archæological Department.*

75. The question of improving the hill stations in the State has engaged the consideration of Government, and it has been decided that a beginning should be made with Nandidroog. The bungalows on the hill have been renovated and several conveniences have been provided for visitors. This hill possesses unique advantages of scenery and climate and it is to be hoped that the measures taken, synchronising as they do with the advent of the railway to the neighbourhood, will serve to revive the popularity which the place enjoyed in the days of the British Commission. The other hill stations, which will probably be taken up for improvement as funds become available, will be the Chamundi Hill near Mysore, the Devaroydrug near Tumkur, and Kalhathigiri on the Bababudans. *Hill Stations.*

9.—Local Self-Government.

76. The number of Municipalities at the end of June 1915 was 89, of which 36 were governed by the Municipal Regulation. The income of all Municipalities in the State during the year amounted to Rs. 10,80,920, and the expenditure to Rs. 9,98,136. Including previous accumulations, there was a balance of Rs. 10,65,432 at the end of the year in favour of the Municipalities. *Municipalities.*

The Mysore Municipal Regulation was amended, so as to empower Municipalities, amongst other things, to raise loans, with the sanction of Government, for constructing works of a permanent nature.

The Bangalore City Improvement Committee, the formation of which was referred to in my last Address, submitted a preliminary report dealing with the more urgent requirements of the City. Government have recently passed orders approving generally of the Committee's proposals, and agreeing as funds become available to

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bear a substantial share of the cost of the improvements, if the Municipal Council are prepared to bear the remainder.

Government have also sanctioned certain proposals of the Mysore Improvement Trust Board for improvements to the Mysore City. The proposals include extensions to the Devaraj Market, re-laying the market square, construction of a new Municipal office and a scheme for housing the poor. In view of the increase in the number of works to be undertaken, the grant to the Trust Board has been temporarily raised to 3½ lakhs per annum.

District Boards.

77. The receipts under District Funds amounted to Rs. 13,23,503 and the expenditure to Rs. 11,18,846. The income and expenditure under Local Funds General were Rs. 2,06,470 and Rs. 1,58,400, respectively. In exercise of the power recently conferred on District Boards, a Railway cess was for the first time levied in the Kolar District which yielded a revenue of over Rs. 47,000. The District Boards of Tumkur and Chitaldrug have been authorised to collect a similar cess in their districts from 1st July last. The District Board of Shimoga are raising funds for the construction of railways in the interior of that district.

Reforms in Local Self-Government.

78. The question of introducing reforms in Local Self-Government in municipal and rural areas with a view to placing it on a more popular basis has been the subject of earnest consideration for some time past. To examine the subject from various points of view, Government appointed two Committees, one presided over by Mr. M. Kantaraj Urs, C.S.I., to deal with the constitution and functions of local bodies, and the other with Rajamantra Pravina Mr. C. Srinivasiengar, as Chairman, to consider the question of the improvement of their financial resources. The reports of the two Committees have been published for general information. Their recommendations were also discussed at the Local Boards and Municipal Conference held in Mysore in June last, under the presidency of Mr. K. P. Puttanna Chetty. It is worthy of note that this Conference owed its origin and success chiefly to non-official initiative.

It is generally admitted that Local Self-Government in Mysore has not progressed satisfactorily and that local bodies are not playing their legitimate rôle in the administration of the country. The apathy displayed by these bodies is attributed chiefly to a deficiency in the elected popular element and to the want of reasonable

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 powers of control over their own funds. His Highness' Government have therefore come to the conclusion that steps should be taken to associate the representatives of the people more largely with the administration of local affairs.

79. The main lines on which Government propose to take action may be briefly referred to here.

In regard to Municipal Councils it is proposed to constitute three classes of Municipalities, *viz.*, 'City,' 'Town' and 'Minor', on the basis of population. The elected element will be not less than two-thirds in City, half in Town, and one-third in Minor Municipalities. Presidents in selected cases, and Vice-Presidents more largely than now, may be elected in City and Town Municipal Councils. Larger powers will be conceded to the Councils as regards establishments, works and budget. The scrutiny of Government over budgets will be limited to a few specified points. The effect of these changes will be to increase very largely the popular character of the Councils and the powers they can exercise within their areas.

As regards the constitution of the District and other rural Boards, the proportion of the elected element will be raised to at least two-thirds in the case of District Boards, and at least half in the case of Taluk Boards and Unions. It is proposed to sanction, with some modifications, the recommendations of the Local Self-Government Committee that the Taluk Boards and Unions should not be merely the agents of District Boards but should have a real corporate existence, independent funds and budget, and should be able to exercise within their own jurisdiction all the functions of the District Board. The powers of rural bodies with regard to establishment and budget will also be increased.

An important change is contemplated regarding the enlargement of the functions of these bodies. It is proposed to transfer tentatively the control over primary education, medical relief and veterinary dispensaries to selected local bodies and to invest the District and Taluk Boards with power to pass and submit resolutions for the consideration of Government in matters, which, though not coming within the sphere of their ordinary duties, relate to local wants and grievances and the administration of the district or taluk generally.

The chief difficulty which hampers the progress of Local Bodies is the general unsatisfactory condition of

their finances. The Local Finance Committee which dealt with this question has recommended that the Local Funds General and the Village School Fund should be abolished as distinct funds and made over to Local Boards and that the mohatarfa now credited to State Funds should also be assigned to Local Bodies. In addition to the assignment of these revenues, they were in favour of large grants-in-aid from Government. These recommendations involve considerable expenditure from State revenues and require further consideration before Government are able to accept them.

80. I have outlined a few of the salient features of the proposals which have tentatively commended themselves to Government, with a view to obtain the opinion of this Assembly in case the members desire to offer any suggestions.

10.—Efficiency of the Administration.

Efficiency Audit.

81. The efficiency audit staff of the General Secretariat continued to devote attention to questions connected with the efficiency of the services. A further development in the lines of work has been lately sanctioned by making the services of the staff available to Heads of Departments and Deputy Commissioners for the investigation of irregularities, etc., in Government departments and offices.

Efficiency of Departments and Offices.

82. Several measures have been undertaken for ensuring system and regularity in the various branches of the administration. As stated already, greater uniformity is being introduced in the work of the Secretariats. The departments are being re-organised and establishments revised, one by one, with a view to placing their working on an up-to-date basis. A set of sample rules has been issued in order to standardise office methods, and in the case of the larger offices requiring more elaborate instructions, the rules have been expanded into office manuals. Eight of these manuals have been recently prepared. Rules have been framed to secure prompt consideration of petitions, and the question of introducing a new system of correspondence and record arrangement in Government offices with a view to greater celerity and orderliness in

the disposal of public business is engaging the consideration of Government. The systematic inspection of all offices at periodical intervals has been arranged for, and returns of business statistics have been prescribed in order that the state of inspection and office work of Heads of Departments and Deputy Commissioners may come to the notice of Government.

83. The question of the personnel of the services *Personnel.* also received considerable attention during the year. Certain suggestions indicating the standards of efficiency and conduct to which Government officers are expected to conform have been issued, and it is hoped that compliance with them, which is at present largely a matter of discipline, will soon become one of habit. A new system of qualification reports has been instituted in order to enable Government to obtain, from time to time, more detailed information than has been hitherto available regarding the work and capacity of the several officers. A scheme for encouraging officers to visit foreign countries has been lately sanctioned.

84. The second examination under the new Civil *The Civil Service.* Service Scheme will be held in November next. There were 45 applicants of whom 27 have been admitted to the examination. Orders have been recently passed with a view to rendering the training of Probationary Assistant Commissioners more practical.

85. The rules governing the recruitment and pro- *Recruitment and*
Training of Officials motion of subordinate officials have also been examined, and it is under contemplation to introduce some changes calculated to afford greater encouragement to men of high educational attainments and to eliminate irregularities in the exercise of patronage. No system of recruitment can be deemed sound unless it gives preference to merit rather than to seniority, and secures a fair representation of all communities, as far as possible, in the public service. The question of giving systematic training to subordinate officials in the technique and principles of their work and in the elements of public administration, is also engaging attention.

86. With a view to ensure efficiency in the District *District*
Administration. administration, and to take stock of progress made in the various special schemes, tours have been undertaken by the Members of Council and the Dewan, and during the year, 51 taluks and 5 sub-taluks were visited. The important wants and grievances of taluks have been catalogued, in order that continuous attention may be bestowed upon them both by officers of Government and the people.

Hand-books.

87. In addition to compilations of departmental interest, hand-books of general information have been prepared for all the districts and, with the exception of those for Kadur and Chitaldrug, have also been printed. Several Taluk hand-books have been completed. Booklets giving essential facts have been published in respect of nearly twenty Municipal towns. Compilations of this character will be useful to officials as well as the non-official public, and are intended to help people to think in definite figures instead of in vague generalities, when questions connected with improvements and expenditure come up for consideration.

11.—Development and other Special Schemes.

88. In describing the operations of the several departments, I have already dealt with some of the special measures undertaken by Government. It might probably be an advantage to give here a perspective view of what is being done in two important directions, viz., the development of the natural resources of the country and the improvement of the efficiency of the people.

Development of Natural Resources.

Roads.

89. Taking communications first, we have at present a road mileage of one mile for every 1,047 inhabitants and one mile per 5.5 square miles of country. Very few new roads have been constructed in recent years and more road mileage is needed in many tracts; but the work is retarded because District Boards have not the wherewithal to provide for the high cost of maintenance.

Railways.

90. Owing to the cessation of all Railway activity for over twelve years, the State lagged behind the rest of India in railway development. Till 1912, the progress on rail road construction was 1 mile for every 12,554 inhabitants while the corresponding figure for all India was 1 mile per 8,873. A Railway Construction Department was organised in 1912, and since then project estimates amounting to Rs. 96 lakhs have been sanctioned. I have already referred to the progress made in the construction of each of these projects. The system of levying a railway cess has greatly facilitated the construction of feeder railways. If the people of the districts who appear to be keen on railways raise the necessary capital locally, as

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some of them have already done, in addition to paying a cess, an ideal state of things will have been brought into existence for the extension of railways. When the new lines are completed and brought into working order, our railway system, besides affording occupations to the people and bringing the local producer and the manufacturer into closer touch with the markets of the world, will also form a remunerative investment bringing a steady annual revenue to the State.

91. There is increased demand for power supply and there is also scope for further extension of the Cauvery Power Scheme. Alternative projects for increasing the power supply are under investigation. *Hydro-Electric Power Works.*

92. The first stage of the Cauvery Reservoir is expected to be completed in 1916-17. The storage already secured is sufficient to guarantee the stipulated power supply to the mines and the works have begun to earn an enhanced revenue of Rs. 6 to 8 lakhs per annum from July last. The construction of subsidiary works, intended mainly to bring under command land meant to be given in exchange for the area submerged in the bed of the Reservoir, and to enable the drowned-out raiyats to settle down in the neighbourhood of their old villages, has been sanctioned at an aggregate cost of about Rs. 21½ lakhs. The works will also afford irrigation facilities to a large extent of land, already under private holding, and are expected to prove remunerative to Government. *Cauvery Reservoir and irrigation in the Cauvery Valley.*

93. I have referred elsewhere to the revision of the rules for the restoration of minor tanks sanctioned during the year in accordance with the understanding arrived at in this Assembly last year. The question of the restoration of the major tanks in the State is also receiving consideration. In future, the selection of these tanks for restoration or repairs will be more systematic, and will depend on the relative importance of the tanks in point of revenue or their special value to the raiyats of the localities concerned. *Major and Minor Tanks.*

Another question requiring careful attention is as regards the measures necessary to make up for the loss in capacity due to the silting up of these reservoirs and to establish a closer correspondence between their capacity and the *atehkat* below. It is not intended to undertake immediately an extensive survey all over the State but such of the tanks, particularly in the Kolar District, as may have failed to answer the requirements of cultivation will be examined and suitable remedies adopted.

*Development of Forest
Resources.*

94. The normal forest revenue of the State may be taken at about Rs. 22 lakhs though, in the years immediately preceding the war, a very much larger revenue was being realised owing to the exceptionally good prices secured for sandalwood. We are advised that there are great possibilities of augmenting our forest revenues by developing communications and carrying operations into the interior of the forests. Lack of communications has been a great difficulty in working these forests on a commercial scale. The construction of the Tarikere-Narasimharajapura Tramway is expected to greatly assist the department in exploiting forest areas hitherto untouched. The forest staff is being strengthened for the same purpose.

*Development of Mineral
Resources.*

95. Our mineral resources await exploitation. There are possibilities in the iron deposits of the Bababudans and a profitable industry in iron and steel may be created if the problem of smelting iron ore with charcoal on a commercial scale is satisfactorily solved. Government recently engaged the services of an expert, Mr. C. P. Perin, Consulting Engineer to the Tata Iron & Steel Company, to examine and report on the prospects of an iron and steel industry and though his detailed report has not yet been received, his general opinion is understood to be favourable.

Improving the Efficiency of the People.

96. The chief agency for the improvement of the people is education. I have already dealt with this subject in another part of the Address. His Highness the Maharaja is anxious for the more rapid spread of education and provision of increased facilities for elementary and higher professional training. With the establishment of a University now under consideration, His Highness hopes to make the educational system in the State self-contained and better adapted to the needs of the country.

The operations of the Economic Conference have already been described. With the aid of this agency Government are doing all they can to spread sound and up-to-date ideas about economic improvement in the country, to make the people think and act for themselves and to help private industrial activities in various ways.

With a view to revive the old village communal spirit, schemes relating to Village Improvement, Minor Tanks, Rural Water-supply, Village Forests, Village Courts and Tank Panchayets, have been introduced.

97. Of these the one that is full of hopeful auguries for the future is the Village Improvement Scheme. *Village Improvement Scheme.* During the two years it has been in operation, 7,745 Village Committees have been constituted for 13,860 villages or about 79 per cent of the total number of villages in the State. In 2,966 villages, the Committees are reported to be holding weekly gatherings regularly for attending to works of improvement and sanitation in and around villages. In 2,659 villages, newspapers are being subscribed for, and 2,039 Village Committees have been holding weekly meetings for disseminating useful information. The value of works of permanent utility undertaken during the year is estimated at Rs. 2.75 lakhs of which the villagers' voluntary contribution in cash or by labour amounted to Rs. 1.5 lakhs, the balance being met by Government. The actual amount spent by the Committees during the year 1914-15 amounted to about Rs. 75,000.

It is gratifying to note that the advantages of the scheme have been fully realised by the villagers who are co-operating cordially with Government officers.

98. The scheme may be said to have passed the experimental stage and it is necessary to consider on what lines its further development may best be attempted. Some steps are necessary in the coming year to bring every village and hamlet in the State under the operations of the scheme. Hitherto, the Committees have been working on a voluntary basis; but frequent representations have been made to Government officers that the provisions of the scheme may be placed on a statutory footing. Perhaps it may not be desirable at this stage for Government to make the scheme compulsory for every village. An alternative course would be to leave it to the villagers themselves to decide in favour of compulsion or otherwise. Where not less than three-fourths of the inhabitants of any village vote for such a step, the scheme may be made obligatory. In that case, the villagers should be given the option to contribute labour or pay a cess in lieu of personal service, the amount of the cess and the exemptions to be granted being settled by the Village Committee. In every case the money collected will remain with the Committee and will be spent by them. If there is sufficient support forthcoming from the public, Government will have no objection to undertake legislation on these or similar lines.

Other Village Schemes.

99. The other village schemes have only recently begun to work. One hundred and forty-three Village Courts have been established and many of them have begun to hear cases. The number of Tark Panchayets constituted is 65. Proposals are being received for the formation of village forests and are under consideration. A sum of rupees one lakh per annum has been set apart for an extensive programme of well works in villages, in addition to the amounts included for this purpose in the grant to the Village Improvement Scheme and the budgets of the District Boards.

Town Planning.

100. A sum of Rs. 25,000 has been set apart in the current year's budget for town-planning work. The necessity for a Town-Planning Bill has been urged for the consideration of Government.

Malnad Improvement Scheme.

101. The scheme inaugurated in February 1914 for the sanitary and economic improvement of the *malnad* portions of the districts of Shimoga, Kadur and Hassan was in operation during the year. The measures, chiefly adopted on the recommendation of the Committees, related to the shifting of villages from insanitary areas, provision of increased medical and maternity facilities—such as free distribution of quinine, appointment of more midwives and establishment of female hospitals in selected central places, removal of rank vegetation in and round villages, provision of better drinking water, popularising vaccination and spreading elementary education by increasing the number of schools. The Committees have yet to work out plans for increasing communications, for relieving agricultural indebtedness, for better drainage in villages and for providing more occupations to the people, such as minor industries connected with forest produce. The problem of labour supply in the *malnad* is one of the most important subjects engaging the attention of the Committees. The operations of the Committees were greatly hampered at the beginning by the difficulty and delay in finding suitable subordinate staff for the executive work of the improvement scheme.

12.—A Comparative View.

102. From the list of measures of improvement and reform which I have just enumerated, many people in this country may perhaps be inclined to the view that

everything is all right with us, that we are attempting too much rather than too little and that there is small need for further effort. But this is not so. A closer view, you will see, reveals an unsatisfactory state of things.

The test of a country's condition must be based, after all, on its relative position with reference to more advanced countries in all the essentials that constitute progress. Let us see how we stand under this test in a few respects.

Taking education first, the literate population in Mysore numbered 6 per cent in 1911. It is perhaps 8 per cent now. In progressive countries, the proportion is over 80 per cent.

103. Occupation and production in the country are chiefly confined to the most primitive of professions in the world, *viz.*, agriculture. The total production in Mysore is valued at Rs. 31 per head. The corresponding figures for Canada and Australia are reported to be Rs. 1,110 and Rs. 621 respectively.

Recently, the Bureau of Standards of the New York Board of Estimate found, upon enquiry, that the lowest yearly income upon which an unskilled labourer's family of five in that City can maintain a standard of living, consistent with American ideals, was Rs. 2,520. This is equivalent to Rs. 504 per head or more than sixteen times the Mysore average.

The figures available for our local trade show that the yearly exports and imports together amount to Rs. 26 per head. The corresponding figures for Canada and Australia are Rs. 480 and Rs. 495 respectively, that is, about eighteen times that of Mysore.

We obtain nearly all the manufactured articles, which require science, skill and enterprise to produce, from foreign countries and pay for them by exporting from the country food and other raw products, in some years at the risk of underfeeding our local population.

Neither the abundant natural resources of the country nor the vast stores of brain energy of the people are properly cultivated and utilised to increase production and wealth in the country.

The country suffers from a low level of industry, a low level of education, a low standard of earning and living, a low capacity for co-operation and low ideals of aspiration and effort generally. There is no gainsaying the fact that a wide gulf divides us, from the more advanced people, in all that constitutes prosperity and enlightenment.

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104. The present low standard of living, as past experience has shown, is a source of danger. It leaves no margin for bad times. Our rainfall is so uncertain that a break in the monsoon, such as we experienced in August last, keeps our population in a state of anxious suspense. A partial failure of rain is attended with much suffering and a severe drought may cause even loss of life. The poorer classes who are sensitive to the calamities of the seasons require training in diligence and thrift. By steady labour for three or four years, a working man can lay by enough money or grain, for himself and family, to tide over a couple of years of scarcity or distress. There is abundant demand for well-paid labour in the country at present and no honest labourer has any excuse for neglecting such an insurance against a year of scarcity. The people should get accustomed to work longer hours and take more largely to industries, manufactures and trade. If these conditions are fulfilled, famines would be as rare in this land as they have become rare, on account of similar precautions, in European countries.

13.—Conclusion.

105. I have placed the ideals of advanced countries before you, because it is safe for us to follow the well-trodden paths of people already in the van of progress. It may be that, on account of climatic and other conditions, we shall never be able to reach their level of efficiency and prosperity. But that is no reason why we should not strive for what is within our reach, namely, to raise our standards, and double or treble our earning capacity in the near future. The very low level at which we stand is itself a measure of the opportunities before the country, and an augury that our efforts will meet with a speedy reward.

106. Government are doing what little they can to promote the efficiency of the people; but their efforts will not avail much without an access of activity and enthusiasm on the part of the public themselves. It is our hope that the more enlightened representatives of the people will study the situation, realise the seriousness of it and endeavour to co-operate with Government in the execution of the various measures of reform and progress to which we

have put our hand. The co-operation is needed both from the official and the non-official public, and it should be co-operation which suggests and asks for opportunities to make itself useful, instead of waiting for a call.

107. It is pleasing to observe that the co-operation we need has also begun to come. Last year, I acknowledged the services of about 60 members of this Assembly in connection with the village improvement scheme, and this year, it is my privilege to thank some 200 influential persons throughout the State, many of whom are members of this Assembly, for help rendered in connection with the Economic Conference movement. After such a gratifying response, His Highness' Government have no doubt that, in the present and future years, more of this informal but invaluable assistance, will be forthcoming.

108. Gentlemen, you will agree that this Address would be incomplete if I failed to voice the widespread feeling of regret which His Highness the Maharaja and his subjects feel at the approaching termination of the beneficent Viceroyalty of His Excellency Lord Hardinge. His Excellency has been a sincere well-wisher and a warm-hearted friend in whose sympathy and sense of justice the Native States have learnt to place implicit confidence.

Also, I know you will feel much regret if I remind you that this will be perhaps the last occasion on which the Hon'ble Col. Sir Hugh Daly, our Resident, will attend this function. He came to us with a high reputation, and, during his term of office, the relations of the Durbar with the Residency have been exceedingly frank and cordial. He has been a true friend of the State and has worthily maintained the highest traditions of British statesmanship. He will carry with him, in his retirement, the warm regard of His Highness the Maharaja and the best wishes of the people of Mysore.

M. VISVESVARAYA,
Dewan of Mysore